



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Mental Hygiene Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – Dix Building

55 Wade Avenue – Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

Brian M. Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director

TO: Public Mental Health System (PMHS) Providers

FROM: Brian Hepburn, M.D.
Executive Director, MHA

RE: Discharge Planning

DATE: November 18, 2008

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There have been increased reports of individuals being dropped off at emergency rooms and discharged from community programs without adequate discharge planning while the person is hospitalized. This is not acceptable.

For those individuals with complex clinical, medical, and rehabilitation needs who are at risk of being discharged from your program, please contact the CSA in advance of any discharge actions. CSAs will assist community programs to access consultation in order to plan and coordinate care.

MHA will be requesting hospitals to provide information on programs that discharge individuals during an inpatient stay. While we recognize that occasionally programs are not able to safely and clinically serve an individual, the program is responsible for discharge planning in order for the individual to receive continued care.

It is important that all components of the PMHS collaborate in order to provide the most effective level of service to individuals with mental illness. Thank you.